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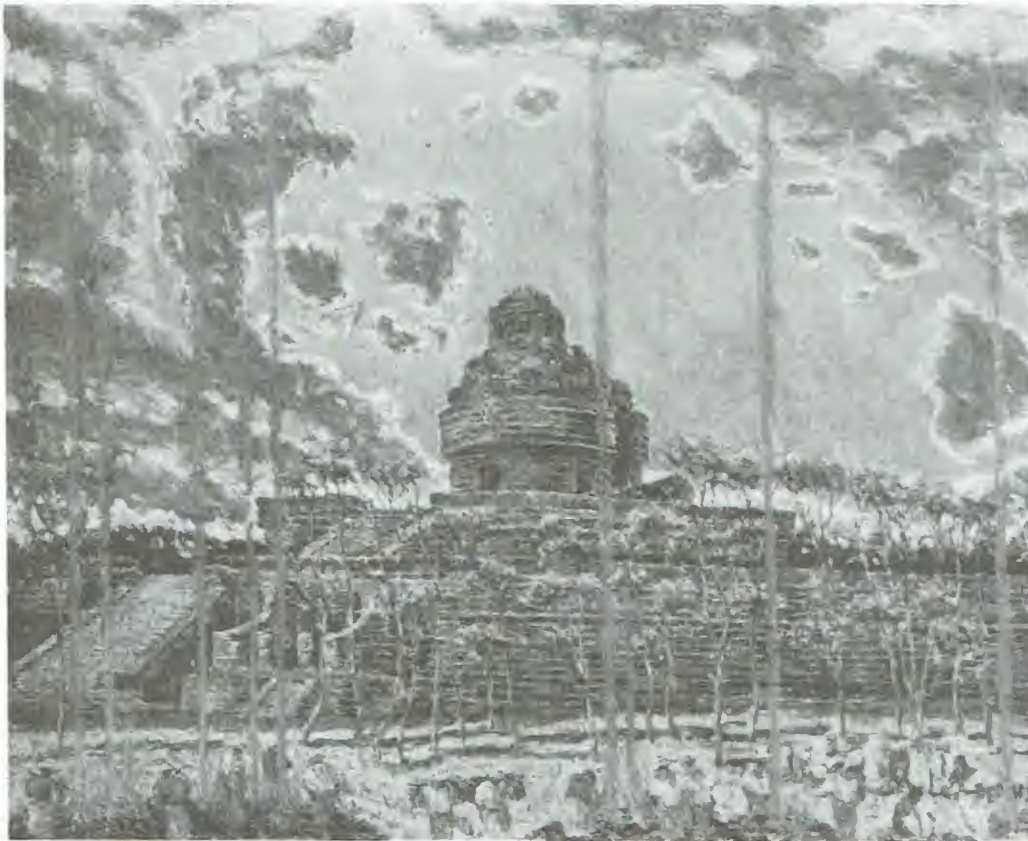
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THE "DO IT" LECTURES

MAYAN REVELATION

140

KEEP TO THE RIGHT

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B

"I WOULD RATHER BE RIGHT THAN BE PRESIDENT."

- Henry Clay

ELOVED CENTURION:

At some time or other in our lives, we all face the problem of determining RIGHT from WRONG. Even though we are good Christians and we like to feel that our character is average or better, even so there comes a time when there are two voices within us. One is saying, "I think it would be all right to do this or that", and the other little voice says, "I am not so sure that it is right; perhaps it's a little bit wrong."

You have probably had this experience in earlier days. The little voice is, of course, CONSCIENCE.

There is one class of people which we think of as the "criminal class", which, for the most part, has no conscience, or at least conscience has become hardened to the extent that they would seem to have lost it; but even this class knows right from wrong, although they do not heed it. They know that what they are doing is wrong or they would not be constantly running from and hiding from justice, and taking all the precautions they can possibly take before they commit an act of dishonesty or violence, in order that they not be apprehended.

Yes, we all really know right from wrong, but once in a great while a little doubt arises as to whether or not we should follow a certain course of procedure; whether it be right or wrong.

The words to follow in this lesson are of vast importance, because they not only tell you how to determine right from wrong, but they actually give you the formula on what to do if you are not getting the utmost from your undertakings. If what you have done has been a failure, they tell you HOW TO CONVERT FAILURE INTO SUCCESS; if you are having difficulty in achieving your goal in life, they cover this.

It is your instructor's belief that this lesson will answer many questions for you that for many years have remained unanswered; and I hope it will point out to you things that you have never thought about from the standpoint of why you are not able to realize your heart's desire.

Sometimes it takes much time before we really understand the right way to go about attaining our purpose. One of our very good Companions wrote me a letter in which he said, "Through you and the Mayans, I was able to reach the man inside." This member's wonderful letter expresses what I want to convey to you. When you find the man or woman inside and understand how to work in harmony with RIGHT, then it is that you are master of your own life, and there is no question ever about determining right from wrong, and knowing the right way to set about doing that which you want to do.

Remember always that RIGHT IS MIGHT, always has been, and always will be; - holiness, meekness, patience, humility, faith, love, self-sacrifice, each one of

these is MIGHT, and every gift of the spirit is MIGHT.

So with this thought in mind, proceed with the lesson and absorb it, Beloved Companion.



And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and ye shall find. John 21:6.

1. DISCOURAGED FISHERMEN

Late one day long ago a group of very sad and discouraged men sat by the Lake of Galilee. They were disciples of Jesus - Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael of Cana, John, James, and two others whose names are unrecorded.

Theirs was a hard situation. The Leader in whom they had put all faith had been arrested and crucified. They supposed the whole effort they had engaged in had failed. Certainly the Leader was no longer visibly present among them.

What could they do? About all that was left to them was to resume the ways of life they had followed before they met Him. Simon Peter had been a fisherman, so quite naturally he declared that he was going fishing. The others could think of nothing better, so they announced that they would go with him.

They found a boat, and soon they were on the water letting down the nets. But hours passed, and no sag in the nets indicated that anything was weighting them down. When taken up for a look they were empty. So the long night passed, the dawn came, and nothing had been caught.

The dawn was breaking when first one of them, then the others, saw a solitary figure standing on the shore. Then they heard the familiar voice of their Leader, risen from the tomb, asking them if they had any food. To the last He was concerned with their comfort as well as their faith. They had to admit the failure of their long, dark night of fishing.

At that the Man on the beach called across the stretch of water, telling them to let down their nets on the other side of the boat and they would be successful. As they had done so many times before, and as we must all learn to do when He commands, and as Mary had told the wedding guests at Cana to do three years before, they did exactly what He said to do. The result was that the net was soon bulging with so great a catch that they could hardly pull it into the boat.

There had been as many fish in the sea as ever, but the fishermen were not letting down the nets where they were. They needed to try another way. That is where we miss it so often in our quests. We try one way, and one place, in one effort, and when that fails, it is all over. The second time, or the hundredth time, we might succeed; but from that we cut ourselves off when we quit. Always try again. That may be the time you will make it. If you do not succeed one way, try another. That may be the right one.

The right one - that is the very word we have in our scripture theme. We

have a pun here, but we can take it either way or both. In this case the other way was the right way. Whatever is the right way, find it. When you do you can accomplish your aim with the same amount of effort it would take to do it wrong. Hereafter in this lesson we shall use the word "right" in the sense of the opposite of wrong.

2. KEEP TO THE RIGHT

It is an accepted rule of motor travel in this country that traffic must keep to the right, though on the streets and roads of some countries to keep to the left is right. Road signs and street markings everywhere indicate this rule, and the avenues of travel are manned with officers to see that the instruction is obeyed.

That is the only way to keep safe on the highway. It is also the only way to reach one's destination. The road to the right is open ahead. The other is closed with oncoming traffic.

When you have traveled far on the journey of the years you will be able to look back over your experience and see that the right way was the only really open road. One has to meet many more obstacles and go to much more trouble to go the wrong one. In the long run the right way is much easier, for there are powers that keep it open for us, and wait with the reward of success at the end.

As you travel the days that make up the journey of life, keep to the right. As you do the things that make up the story of life, keep to the right. If anything is not working out, see if your nets are cast on the right side of the boat. If you are not going about it in the right way, try another. The fish are there, but you will not catch them on the wrong side of the boat. Your destiny awaits you, but you will move away from it rather than toward it if you try to travel on the wrong side of the road. You have to learn to judge these things, but one thing is clear - if you are not succeeding, you are doing something wrong. If you are not putting enough effort into it, put more. If you are, and still it does not work out, try another way.

The change can usually be made easily and quickly. It is merely a matter of decision and reversal. Take up your empty nets and lower them on the right side of the boat. Get off the wrong road and onto the right one. Get out of the wrong traffic lane and into the correct one. Correct your method, and if necessary correct your plan as well. Change your course, and if necessary change even your direction. Just two things are necessary - find the right way and do it.

The stories of the many people who have developed ideas for the betterment of human life read like lists of miracles, but one thing stands out in every one. It is the vast number of trials to which any one of these ideas had to be subjected. Some of the people who developed them worked days and nights for years seeking just the right way, the right combination, the right proportions, the right substances, the right temperatures, till at last they had something not only useful but safe and sure. The story of industry is one of seeking the right way, so is the story of life.

The average great industrial organization these days has busy laboratories

in which the best scientific skills are being concentrated all the time on developing new and better things. Have you such a laboratory somewhere in your life, and are you devoting your best still to finding right ways to do wonders with the precious life God has given you to spend on earth? We are told in all this experimentation and achievement we must keep to the right. DO IT.

3. WHAT IS THE RIGHT?

Since we are here applying the word "right" in the sense of action rather than that of direction, we have to take into account the question of what right is. Anyone knows right from left, but there are people who insist on raising questions about the difference between right and wrong. Here by the right way we have said that we mean the correct way. What is that?

The answers are many, for the word "right" applies to so many things; but they all amount to about the same - doing a thing in the way that produces the best results. This is based on a principle we should always apply - anything rightly used in its right relation to life is good, and anything wrongly used and in its wrong relation to life is bad.

Anything rightly done succeeds. Anything wrongly done is doomed to failure. Anything rightly done leads to satisfaction. Anything wrongly done results in unhappiness. THAT IS AN ABIDING LAW OF LIFE, CHOICE, AND ACTION. Anyone who disregards or opposes it goes against the power of the universe and the law of the eternities. Whoever confuses right with wrong or truth with error, the very stars in their courses will fight against him.

WHAT IS RIGHT? There are as many answers as there are facets of life, as there are things to do, as there are choices to make, as there are relationships.

RIGHT for the engineer is to keep to the known principles of construction.

RIGHT for the judge is to be faithful to the law, the evidence, and human welfare.

RIGHT for the mathematician is to observe the known principles governing number, quantity, and value relationships.

RIGHT for the thinker is to keep to the principles of Logic in the search for truth.

RIGHT for the traveler is to keep to the road that leads to his chosen destination.

RIGHT for the worker is to create a needed product of the best quality and material, and in the best manner possible.

RIGHT FOR US ALL IS TO DO OUR BEST TO KNOW AND DO THE WILL OF GOD FOR US AND FOR THOSE WITH WHOM WE SHARE OUR TIME AND PLACE.

How are we to know and decide these things? There are ways in which to succeed at it very well. Here are some of the guides - the Word of God, the teachings

of Jesus, the wisdom of the ages, the experience of the race, an instructed conscience, the voice of judgment, the dictates of reason, the data of knowledge, the counsel of the good. One who heeds these is not likely to go far astray.

As time goes on, all these may come into clearer focus, but the right way now is to act in accordance with what we know. We know certain definite things the Master says to do. DO THEM.

4. THE TEST

Let us try to get this whole matter all the way down to earth and to reduce it to the most practical terms possible. Let us take your situation right now in whatever it is you are trying to accomplish, whatever it is you want to make of your life, or of what you are doing today. How can you know whether you are fishing on the right side of the boat or not? The reason the answer to that question is so often not found is the fact that it is so easy that it is overlooked.

The test is what is called a pragmatic one. That is, the rightness of a thing is determined by practice. It is judged by the result. The proof of the pudding is the eating. The proof of the garment is in the appearance, utility, and wearing quality. The proof of the effort is in its success. The proof of the deed is in the benefit that results.

How do you know whether you are on the right road to a given place or not? By whether you are getting any nearer that place, and whether you finally arrive.

How do you know whether you are preparing an article of food rightly? First by the appearance; then, by the taste; and third, by whether or not it is wholesome and nourishing.

How do you know whether you have learned a lesson rightly? By whether you can recite it, remember it, and apply it.

How do you know whether you are on the right road to achievement, victory, excellence, success? By whether you are attaining your objectives. If the answer to any of these questions, or any similar ones relating to other phases of life is negative, you are failing. If you are failing, something is wrong. You are not doing it correctly. You are fishing on the wrong side of the boat. The remedy is as simple as the question. Change it. The Master has said to cast your net on the right side of the boat. Find which is the "right" side, and do it.

There are many ways of fishing on the wrong side of the boat. One of them is living for false values, one is following the wrong idea of life and success, one is not living vigorously for what is good, one is trying to do and get things in your own strength without benefit of faith and dependence on God. Learn about these mistakes and others like them, then avoid them as a ship would steer clear of rocks and reefs. If the right way has already been marked, follow it. If not, find it and your service will be all the greater.

God has given you intelligence to use this quest for right roads and right methods. Use that intelligence, and you may be surprised how good it is. He has given you a deep-seated intuition to aid this intelligence in its finer discriminations. Use that also. He stands ready to give you the help of heaven in doing

whatever is necessary to arrive at and accomplish what is best. Use that too.

In one of many thousands of cases one might drift aimlessly to his true destiny, but by finding the right way and following the guidance of God he can do it every time. By the law of averages it probably is not for you, but by casting your net on the right side of the boat it surely is for you.

5. ANALYZE THE SITUATION

If you are not getting on as you know you should, do not give up. Analyze the situation, and see what is wrong.

In a vast number of cases the trouble is merely lack of effort. Many people, some of them with the gray hairs of middle age or later, simply have not got under way. They have the ability and the power, but they just haven't turned on the steam and opened the throttle.

There are two kinds of people who never arrive. One is made up of those who start and quit. The other is composed of those who never even start. The first group at least deserves some credit for trying.

Perhaps these people who never start have never realized the importance of having a purpose in life, and perhaps they have never realized that they could succeed in the business of living if they would try. Perhaps they never pondered on Maltbie Babcock's lines:

"Be strong.
We are not here to play, to dream, to drift.
We have hard work to do and loads to lift.
Shun not the struggle. Face it. 'Tis God's gift.
Be strong."

The remedy is plain and simple - get under way. But maybe you have been trying, and have either given up or failed. What then? Any one of several things may be hindering you.

You may have undertaken the wrong task and missed the one that was waiting somewhere just made for you. There are signs to tell you what your job in the world is. Your feelings, your aptitudes, your opportunities, your promptings, will surely point the way if you often stop, look, and listen. Do not leave so important a thing to chance or accident. There is a task for you, and there is a place. Find them. Occupy the place and go to work on the task.

You may be trying to do the right work in the wrong way. How one goes about a thing makes all the difference in the world. Every task on earth has its written or unwritten key, plan, and code. Find your key and unlock the gate to your heart's desire. Cast your net on the right side of the boat and you will succeed.

You may be doing the right thing in the right way, but at the WRONG time. Providence runs by the clock of destiny, and fate's hour strikes only when the

striking weight has been wound up. In the dream of the ages correct timing is required. The thing you could not do last year, or last week, or yesterday, you may be able to do now. Watch for that combination - the right thing, in the right way, at the right time. It is a winning combination, BECAUSE IT IS THE MASTER'S WAY.

6. THE CONTROLLING FACTOR

In the Master Prayer, usually called The Lord's Prayer, and in His own most intense prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus has indicated that all praying should be done in the spirit of the words, Thy will be done. That is the key to the new heaven and the new earth, both in individual living and collective condition. The whole happiness of the human race and each individual in it is bound up in that request.

In that Garden of Gethsemane scene we are shown something most revealing in the nature and life of the world's supreme Personality. It was a crossroads picture of the soul, where the spirit was ready to go one way - the right way - but the flesh wanted to go the other - which was wrong. The right way was undeniably hard, and the wrong way was invitingly easy. Jesus had had to make a decision as to the direction of His life at the time of the temptation. He had to make it again in the Garden. What determined the outcome and gave the spirit the victory? The fact that He prayed not that He should have His way, but that God's will should be done.

That was the purpose to which His life had been set. By it His inner desires had been controlled. Upon it depended His victory or failure. Should He hold to it now when things had come to a climax? If the flesh had had its way in that hour He would have failed, but it did not. He defeated it with His prayer that God's will be done.

If you once get your life set to the eternal pattern, running by God's will, balanced in the infinite scheme of things, you will be on the sure road to the highest in life. That is the time-clock which releases the motor powers of the universe. Set your life by it, and you are bound to win. Working with God, you will succeed at all good purposes. Walking with God you will arrive at all good objectives. That is the controlling factor.

(Read this passage again. IT IS THE KEY - the answer to your problem.)

Depend upon it, the will of God is for your good, your advancement, that you may fill adequately the one best place in the total plan of things for you. We spend time and money on intelligence tests, aptitude tests, and efficiency tests, and that may be helpful in a way and to a degree; but they will be found to be far more so if your life is geared to the eternal purpose. That will help you to find your inevitable place, do your appointed task, and be safe from all storm and peril while you achieve your destiny. The human will is imperfect, but the will of God is perfect. Human purposes are wavering, but God's purposes are

sure. Human plans may succeed for today, but God's plans succeed for all the days.

All the Master ever did or does command is a facet of that perfect and eternal will. His life was geared to it, and He knew how to help us to get our lives adjusted to it and keep them so.

One can be a maximum human being only by living in accord with the Divine Being. The Everlasting Mercy continually invites each of us to be a part of the best possible race in the best possible world. Obedience makes us fit to play such a role in such a drama.

7. CONCLUSION

We now approach the close of this series of lessons, which has undertaken to show the importance of doing what the Master of Life bids us to do, and to encourage the student to do it and thus find himself and his way through the maze of life. It remains only to try to reinforce that idea and fasten it into your purposes firmly enough that it will hold through the changes of the days and years. You have no doubt formed many good resolutions as you have traced these pages, but it is one thing to begin a task and quite another to carry it through to successful completion.

There will be times when you will grow weary, for right living is work. Remember that everyone who ever attained an objective got tired. Remember too, that training in patience is a part of the reward. Remember too, that it is after we come to the weariness stage and feel that we can do no more that we get that new burst of energy called the second wind. Anyway, we have to go on with the business of living. It is no more wearying to do the right thing than the wrong one.

There will be times when you will wonder if it is really as important as you thought. What the Master bids us do is more than important. IT IS VITAL.

There will be times when you will feel discouraged, and it will seem that the effort is not worthwhile. We are not the judges of what is and what is not worthwhile. We consult only our feelings about it, AND THEY ARE NOT RELIABLE. We can see the beginning, but not the end. We judge by apparent present situations, but what we do will be a part of the world life, perhaps a growing one, long after our time. God has His own way of using our efforts.

There will be times when you will wonder why you should do so much for other people. But you are not doing it entirely for other people. What the Master requires is as much for your sake as for that of anyone else. You too will live in the world and derive your share of all the benefits you help to create. Anyway, doing these things constantly enlarges your life, strengthens your character, and improves your personality. YOU ARE BY MUCH THE GAINER.

There will be times when you will think you are not adequate to such a daring program of living as the one the Master bids us undertake. Do not be deceived about that feeling. It is a good sign, for it shows that you are humble as well as strong. The place of a tiny rivet or a hidden gear in a great machine may seem insignificant, but it is just as necessary as are the more pretentious parts of

the plan. Anyway, perhaps you are more than a tiny rivet or a hidden gear.

Two responsibilities are before you. One is to know what the Master bids you do, and record is before you. The other is to do it, and that lies within your power. The rest you can leave to God, and Life, and Time. So do not debate about it. Do not theorize about it. Do not worry about it. JUST DO IT.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Thou hast shown me the way. Lead me in it. Amen.

Blessings,

YOUR CLASS INSTRUCTOR.



The next series is extremely important in your progress. It is the sincere belief of your instructor that the more thoroughly you have grasped the principles given to you in this DO IT Series, the more you will be ready for what is to come. I hope that it will be possible for you to review this series before your next lesson. It will be extremely helpful, but is, of course, not absolutely necessary. At any rate, be ready to receive.

